President’s Report

January 22nd, 2022

Theme: NURSES CARE: Collaborate, Advocate, Recreate, Educate

I will begin by extending a special thanks and appreciation on behalf of the Executive and Board of Directors of the Virgin Islands State Nurses Association (VISNA) to all nurses and health care providers, “Our Heroes” for their dedication and commitment in rendering care to the members of our community during this unprecedented time, VISNA appreciate and salutes you and will continue to support you as you stay true to your calling.

Nurses have and are still facing many challenges during this pandemic for the past two years. Many of our nursing colleagues lost their lives, some have left the profession but still many are continuing the fight despite all the stress, burnout, and negative feedback they encounter each day. The nursing profession has consistently been recognized as the most trusted profession for the past twenty (20) years, with a 14% advantage over doctors.

There were many missed opportunities and missed steps on the part of the Board of VISNA to reach out and engage our members. One of my goals is to have quarterly meetings with each district, separately and collectively to stay engaged and hear from our members to help build a stronger and robust association.

Quarterly meetings of the State Board were held virtually during the past two years. Virtual meetings were also held with the Chief Nursing Officers of Schneider Regional and Juan F Luis along with middle management and some staff members. The plan is to continue this dialogue.

Nurses Week activities for 2020-2021 were scaled back due to the Covid pandemic, tokens of appreciation were given to the nurses. Candlelight services were held in both districts. The Board approved and made monetary donations to four (4) non-profit organizations which were St. Thomas Nana Children’s Home and The Salvation Army, St. Thomas, St. Croix Mission Outreach and the Boys and Girls Club of St. Croix.

The VISNA Newsletter had two publications, thanks to the Executive director Mrs. Joyce Heyliger. Moving forward, we aim to publish quarterly newsletters and we invite members to submit articles to be included in the next publication. Suggestions for articles can be birthdays/anniversaries/promotions and other achievements by the nurse. Articles of medical/nursing information are also welcome.

VISNA’s affiliation with American Nurses Association (ANA) affords the members some benefits that the nurses can access. Members are invited to visit the VISNA website ([visna.nursingnetwork.com](file:///C:\Users\cliburd\Downloads\visna.nursingnetwork.com)).

The Professional Liability Insurance offered by Nursing services Organization (NSO) is one that is forthcoming and hope it will be available soon to the nurses in the territory.

Students attending the University of the Virgin Islands also have access to the Student Loan Refinancing program. A Travel Discount program is offered by [www.bookingcommunity.com](file:///C:\Users\cliburd\Downloads\www.bookingcommunity.com) for discounts on airline tickets, hotel accommodations and such. There are other benefits and hopefully in the not-too-distant future, VISNA members will be able to benefit from them.

The Nurse Compact License was approved by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Bryan.

Mr. James Puente, Director of the National Council of State Boards conducted a webinar on the relevance of the Compact License. VISNA plans on inviting him back to conduct another presentation for nurses.

As President, my hope with the support of the Board of Directors, is that 2021 will be realized in 2022 and beyond. There will be challenges but working together and supporting each other and our association we will succeed.

To all the nurses and other health care providers, on behalf of the Board, I wish for us to have a safe, healthy, and productive 2022.

Respectfully,

Evet Rivera RN

President.